

thank Senators ROBB, COCHRAN, and JEFFORDS for cosponsoring this measure. I also express my appreciation to Chairman THOMAS for his ever vigilant efforts on parks legislation, and in particular, for moving both the Vicksburg Campaign Trail and Corinth battlefield bills forward. I take this opportunity to recognize Chairman MURKOWSKI for his continued stewardship over the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Mr. President, I also want to recognize Ken P'Pool, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer for Mississippi; Rosemary Williams, chairman of the Siege and Battle of Corinth Commission; John Sullivan, president of the Friends of the Vicksburg Campaign and Historic Trail; and Terry Winschel and Woody Harrell of the U.S. Park Service for their support and guidance on these important preservation measures. Lastly, I recognize several staff members including Randy Turner, Jim O'Toole, and Andrew Lundquist from the Senate Energy Committee, Darcie Tomasallo from Senate Legislative Counsel, and Stan Harris, Angel Campbell, Steven Wall, Jim Sartucci, and Steven Apicella from my office, for their efforts to preserve Mississippi's and America's historic resources. Mr. President, as a result of the Senate's action today, our children will be better able to understand and appreciate the full historic, social, and economic impact of the Vicksburg Campaign Trail and the Siege and Battle of Corinth.

REGIONAL COOPERATIVE HEALTH PROGRAM FUNDING THROUGH WYE SUPPLEMENTAL ASSISTANCE-FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I rise today to urge the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to allocate some of its Wye Supplemental Assistance Funding to the first regional cooperative health program ever designed to serve both the Palestinians and Israelis. Improving the health of Palestinians and Israelis through a successful cooperative endeavor would provide a vibrant prescription for peace in the Middle East.

This important health program, which pairs the Kuvim Center for the Study of Infectious and Tropical Diseases of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem with the Palestinian Al-Quds University, has requested support from USAID as a \$20 million, five-year program. The purpose of this program is to find innovative ways to fight infectious diseases in the region, and calls upon these Universities to build a permanent, collaborative infrastructure for improving the health of the Palestinians and Israeli people.

United States Secretary of State Madeleine Albright has said the most important projects for promoting peace and cooperation between nations are what she calls "people projects"—those

projects that people of all races, religions, and beliefs can support. This program, which seeks to protect local people from the infectious and parasitic diseases that are among the leading causes of death in the West Bank and Gaza, is a great example of fostering cooperation through people projects of mutual interest.

USAID has successfully funded similar health programs in Egypt and Turkey, but this is the first such program proposed for the Israeli and Palestinian people. Members of Congress, the President, and the State Department all support this program. If USAID funds the program, it would give the United States scientific and fiscal oversight through both USAID and the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

I support the funding for this regional collaborative effort as a powerful example of what a working relationship should be in the Middle East and I believe that it should be given the highest funding priority out of the Wye package.

THE FEMA EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER ACT

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, as a cosponsor of S. 1516, legislation reauthorizing the Federal Emergency Administration's Emergency Food and Shelter program, I am very pleased that the Senate is about to pass this legislation and send it to the House of Representatives. I hope that our colleagues in the House will swiftly approve this important bill, so that it can be sent to President Clinton for his signature before our legislative session adjourns for the year.

FEMA's Emergency Food and Shelter (EFS) program provides financial assistance to supplement community efforts to provide food, shelter, and other valuable items to homeless and hungry people around the country. Most of the EFS' monies are distributed directly to local boards, which are comprised of representatives from religious and charitable organizations from the surrounding area. These boards then award grants to non-profit, voluntary, and social service organizations, which assist individuals with their food, shelter, or emergency assistance costs. Using a local distribution network helps to ensure that the EFS' funds are targeted to those who most need assistance.

To its credit, FEMA has been very successful in keeping the administrative costs of this program very low. In fact, these costs consume less than 3 percent of the funding, which is an inspiring example that all of the Federal Government's agencies and departments should strive to follow.

In Maine, the EFS program has been extremely helpful. For example the Sister Mary O'Donnell Shelter, located in Presque Isle, Maine, received a \$10,500 grant from this program. Amazingly enough, this shelter was able to use this modest funding to provide the

equivalent of 1,974 nights of shelter for the homeless in northern Maine.

EFS is a very successful program that carefully targets its resources where they are needed most, and does so with an absolute minimum of administrative expense. The Government Affairs Committee approved this legislation with a unanimous voice vote on November 3, 1999, and I hope the full Senate will do likewise.

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ASSISTANCE AND BILL OF RIGHTS ACT

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I strongly support the current reauthorization of the Developmental Disabilities Act, and I commend Senator JEFFORDS for his leadership in making this reauthorization a priority.

I also commend the members of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee and the administration for their leadership in developing this bipartisan bill. I especially want to recognize TOM HARKIN for his leadership and continued commitment to individuals with disabilities. I also commend all the staff members for their skillful work to make this process successful.

Today, I particularly want to take this opportunity to say thank you to my sister Eunice Kennedy Shriver for her many years of extraordinary dedication and commitment to children and adults with mental retardation and their families. Had it not been for her vision and commitment on behalf of people with mental retardation, the Developmental Disabilities Act would not be the impressive success it is today.

For many years, since the Developmental Disabilities Act was first signed into law by President Kennedy in 1963, developmental disabilities programs in the states have worked effectively to improve the lives of children and adults with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities. The act serves as the foundation for a network of programs that offer them real choices on where to live, work, go to school, and participate in community life.

Through these programs, the 4 million individuals with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities are able to obtain the support they need to participate in all aspects of the community. They receive needed assistance in education, and early intervention efforts are used to provide appropriate health care services and support.

For millions of Americans these services can mean the difference between dependence and independence, between lost potential and becoming contributing and participating members of their communities.

Throughout the preparation of this legislation, we have listened to consumers, advocates, families, and program administrators—all of whom have